

SOURCES SOUGHT SPECIAL NOTICE 2011
NNA1112345L
Questions and Answers related to the amendment posted 2/22/11,
Center Innovation Fund Opportunities

Q&A Update 3-7-11

Q1. "Sustainable and Sustaining Technologies" -- in space policy, "sustainable" usually means sufficiently low cost that a program won't get canceled in the next budget drama. "Sustaining" could be taken to mean ISRU and other live-off-the-land approaches that would support an affordable exploration program.

A1. In this instance, by “sustainable and sustaining technologies” we are referring to “green technologies.” This could include anything from better fuel cells to more efficient power generation systems (e.g., solar panels) to technologies enabling “intelligent buildings” to aircraft biofuels.

Q2. "Commodity-based Space Technologies" -- is this a reference to using Commercial Off the Shelf (COTS) technologies rather than custom designs, or using barge-loads of grain to reach orbit?

A2. This refers to using COTS technologies in innovative ways that can further the NASA mission.

Q3. We have several innovative technologies that we have been discussing with Ames. I wasn't sure whether a respondent to the CIF call was required to submit all candidate technologies and/or initiatives in a single 3-page response –or- could submit several separate responses, one for each emerging technology and/or initiative that might be of interest to NASA Ames. Can you please clarify?

A3. Respondents may submit several separate responses, each no more than 3 pages, for each emerging technology and/or initiative that might be of interest to NASA Ames.

Q4. The synopsis mentioned that an announcement of CIF opportunities was anticipated to be release on Feb 23, 2011 through ARC internal email. Did it actually happen?

A4. The announcement was released February 28, 2011.

Q5. We are interested in responding to the areas: small satellite/spacecraft, integrated system health management, robotics/autonomous systems, and autonomous landing. Is it possible to have some conversations with the technical experts within ARC before we submit the response? I am thinking this may help us and ARC aligned.

A5. Conversations with technical experts at ARC are not prohibited.

Q6. The synopsis asks for roles between proposers and ARC, and ROM cost. Are you looking for a specific project idea in the response (easier to talk about roles and cost), or innovative technology ideas with generic capability description?

A6. Respondents should focus on innovative technology ideas with specifics provided to the greatest degree possible. Civil service proposers will discuss the division of responsibilities and costs in a specific project with the selected organization(s) as the CIF proposal(s) is developed.

Q7. What size of projects are you looking for? <\$1m, \$1 – 5m, or >\$5m? How many partners are you planning to select?

A7. CIF awards are limited to \$50K each. Only civil servants may submit proposals in response to the CIF announcement. CIF Proposals are due March 15, 2011. The efforts selected for funding are expected to be complete by September 30, 2011. There is no limit on the number of proposal partners that may be selected by ARC civil servants.

Q8. Has the deadline for CIF proposals been extended?

A8. Yes. The deadline for civil-servant led CIF proposals is March 21, 2011. Therefore, the deadline for submittals of responses by potential non-Government co-investigators to this Sources Sought notice has been extended to March 16, 2011.

Q9. Are NASA support service contractors required to respond to the Sources Sought Notice?

A9. Yes, assuming the contractor provides research services. Potential non-Government co-Investigators interested in partnering with a civil servant to respond to ARC's internal CIF call should respond specifically to modification one of the Sources Sought Special Notice that was posted on February 22, 2011.